Amendment to the Claims:

Claims 1, 6-12 and 16-22 have been cancelled previously. And claims 4, 5, 13 and 14 have been amended herein.

Claim 1 (cancelled)

Claim 2 (previously amended):

The method of claim 13, wherein said recombinant viral vector is a retroviral vector.

Claim 3 (previously amended):

The method of claim 13, wherein said recombinant vector is a plasmid vector.

Claim 4 (currently amended):

The method of claim 13, wherein said population of ~~transfected/transduced chondrocyte cells~~ transfected chondrocytes are stored prior to transplantation.

Claim 5 (currently amended):

The method of claim 4, wherein said population of ~~transfected/transduced chondrocyte cells~~ transfected chondrocytes are stored in 10% DMSO under liquid nitrogen prior to transplantation.

Claims 6-12 (cancelled)

Claim 13 (currently amended):

A method of ~~regenerating~~ generating hyaline cartilage, comprising:

a) generating a recombinant viral or plasmid vector comprising a DNA sequence encoding transforming growth factor β1 (TGF-β1) ~~or BMP~~ operatively linked to a promoter;

b) ~~transfecting/transducing~~ transfecting *in vitro* a population of ~~chondrocyte cells~~ chondrocytes with said recombinant vector, resulting in a population of ~~transfected/transduced~~ transfected connective tissue cells; and

c) injecting a composition consisting of the ~~transfected/transduced~~ transfected population of ~~chondrocyte cells~~ chondrocytes and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier into a joint space of a mammal such that expression of the DNA sequence encoding TGFβ1 ~~or BMP~~ within the joint space occurs resulting in the generation of hyaline cartilage in the joint space.

Claim 14 (currently amended):

The method of claim 13, wherein said transfection is accomplished by liposome encapsulation, calcium phosphate coprecipitation, electroporation ~~and~~ or DEAE-dextran mediation.

Claim 15 (original):

The method of claim 3, wherein said plasmid is pmTβ1.

Claims 16-22 (cancelled)